

## County Profile: Cumberland

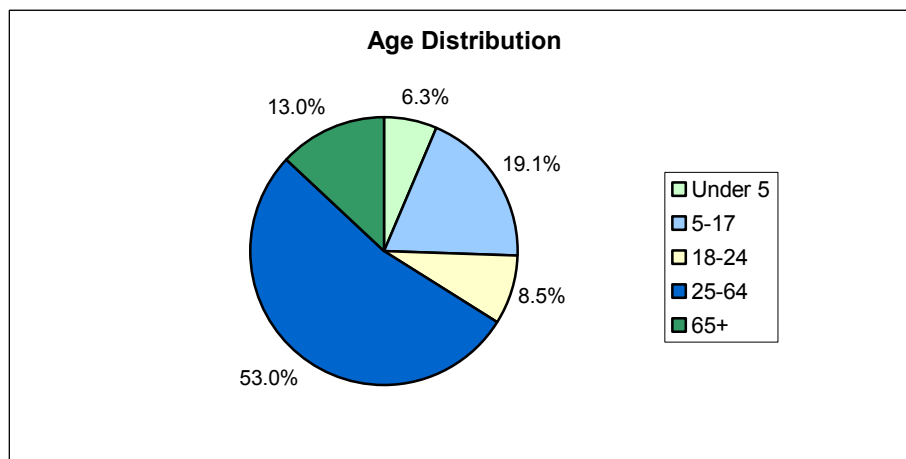


### General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 146,438 individuals reside in Cumberland County's 14 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 489.3 square miles, which translates into a population density of 299.3 persons per square mile. This makes Cumberland County the 16<sup>th</sup> most populous of the state's 21 counties.

At 6.1%, Cumberland County experienced less population growth from 1990 to 2000 than the state overall. However, only four municipalities lost population. Most municipalities, experienced some growth, and its third largest city, Bridgeton grew by 20.2%. More than 70% of the population is concentrated in three urban communities – Vineland, Millville and Bridgeton, with 38% in Vineland alone.

Cumberland County has 37,203 children under the age of 18. They comprise 25.4% of the county's total population and 1.8% of the state's population. Approximately 62% of Cumberland County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 13% are 65 years and older. In its age distribution, Cumberland County closely resembles the state as a whole.



### Child Welfare

Cumberland County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals exceeds the proportion of children residing in the county. While 1.8% of all children in New Jersey

reside in Cumberland County, 3.8%, or 1,485 of the child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. The patterns of abuse and neglect differ somewhat from the state pattern. There are more referrals for sexual abuse and slightly fewer referrals for neglect in Cumberland County compared to the state.

### Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001

	Cumberland County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	498	33.5	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	11	0.7	330	0.9
Sexual	120	8.1	2,179	5.6
Neglect	804	54.1	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	52	3.5	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	1,485	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	9.2	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	23.0	---	21.8	---

In the Cumberland County District Office, the active DYFS caseload is 2,100 children and 1,034 families. There are 218 in-state foster homes in Cumberland County. There are 301 Cumberland County children in foster care, which is 3.9% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and more than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Cumberland County children in foster care, 47.5% reside in a different county than their family, which is similar to the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6%.

From 1998 to 2002, three children in Cumberland County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123. Two of the families of these children had an open/active case with DYFS at the time of their death, while one case was not known to DYFS. The number of all infants who died in Cumberland County in 2000 was 25, 3.5% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 12.3 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was almost twice the statewide rate of 6.3.

### Child Welfare Outcome Measures

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Cumberland County is presented in the following table.<sup>1</sup> Cumberland County does better in comparison to the national standard in three areas. The percentage of child abuse and neglect cases in which there is a recurrence of abuse and/or neglect within six months is 5.8%, which is lower than the national standard of 6.1%. There are also a greater percentage of children who exited foster care for adoption within 24 months compared to the national standard (38.9% compared to a national standard of 32%), the highest in the state. Compared to a national standard of 86.7%, 88.4% of Cumberland children who have been in

<sup>1</sup> See definitions that follow for detailed descriptions of the categories presented in this table.

placement no more than twelve months, have no more than two placements within that time period.

In other areas, Cumberland County does not meet the national standards for child welfare outcomes. The percentage of children exiting foster care who re-enter care within 12 months of a previous episode is 10.8% compared to a national standard of 8.6%. In addition, compared to the national standard, a smaller percentage of Cumberland foster children were reunified with parents or caregivers within twelve months of discharge from foster care, while the county's incidence of abuse and/or neglect within foster care exceeded the national standard of .57%.

### 2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Cumberland	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	5.8%	6.5%	6.1% or less
A/N Incidence in foster care	.93%	1.3%	.57% or less
Re-unify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	64.5%	60.3%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	10.8%	9.8%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	38.9%	15.8%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	88.4%	85.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

### Definitions

**Reduce recurrence of maltreatment** – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

**A/N incidence in foster care** – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

**Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry** – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

**Re-enter care within 12 months** – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage who re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

**Reduce time in foster care to adoption** – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

**Increase placement stability** – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

## **Data Sources**

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03  
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03  
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000  
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001  
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03  
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03  
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003  
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U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)  
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U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

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